activities in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. However, their involvement in the recent twin bomb blast in Mumbai on August 25, 2003 has not come to notice so far.

(d) The Central and State security and intelligence agencies have been taking all possible measures to curb the activities of disruptionist elements.

Anti-terrorism Force

848. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate anti-terrorism force trained to counter nuclear and chemical warfare;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to train this force for specialised courses in Israel, UK and USA;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether these Governments have acceded to the proposal for training in their countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) and (b) Four Battalions of Central Para Military Forces have been earmarked for responding to terrorists attacks involving use of radioactive material and biological/chemical agents. The nodal training institutions have been identified and qualitative requirements (QRs), training faculty and the syllabus have been finalized. The training of trainers will commence from January 2004.

(c) to (e) The country has capabilities in training personnel for responding to such disasters. However, some personnel have also been trained in USA in certain aspects. If need be further specialized training may also be organized in countries having such capabilities.

Rehabilitation of victims of terrorism and communal violence

†849. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far by Government to solve the rehabilitation problem of helpless orphan children, widows and old persons in different

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

parts of the country which have been rendered so due to terrorism and communal violence; and

(b) the names of Government and non-Governmental institutions engaged in the service of helpless persons, orphans and widows?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) As per available information, the Rehabilitation Council set up by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir for providing assistance for psychological and economic rehabilitation of the victims of militancy, have taken up the following Welfare Schemes:-

(1) **Widows/Girl students:** Financial assistance for marriage, skill upgradation, vocational training, arrangement of self-employment venture and setting up of hostels for girl students, etc.

(2) **Orphans:** Sponsorship in residential schools both in the State as well as outside, in foster homes run by NGOs, special coaching classes for admission to professional courses, provision of scholarships and reimbursement of tuitions fees, etc.

(3) **Handicapped persons:** Organisation of rehabilitation/medical camps, travelling expenses for specialized treatment, vocational training through NGOs.

Besides, the National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Home Affairs is providing financial assistance for the physical and psychological rehabilitation of the child victims of communal, caste, ethnic or terrorist violence (Rs. 650/- p.m. per child in class 'A' and 'B' Cities and Rs. 600/- in other places). In addition, Rs. 150/- month per child is also being paid for professional/vocational education.

Ex-gratia relief of Rs. 1 lakh in case of death and Rs. 50,000/- in case of permanent incapacitation is also provided to victims of communal riots in the UTs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Pondicherry, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

In the States affected by left wing extremism and in the North-Eastern States affected by insurgency, ex-gratia grant of Rs.1 lakh (civilian) is provided to the victims of terrorist attacks. Similarly, the J&K Government

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has been paying Rs.1 lakh to the victims of terrorist attacks in case of death and Rs.75,000/- in case of permanent incapacitation.

Steps to make mining sector safer

†850. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make mining sector safer and pollution-free keeping in view the frequent accidents occurring therein;

(b) the number of accidents which occurred in this sector so far in the year 2003 as compared to year 2002 along with the number of persons killed therein;

(c) whether Government propose to put into use the laser developed in order to make the use of explosives more safe while conducting mining work as also to make it pollution free; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) In order to ensure conservation and systematic development of minerals and protection of environment, all lessees of major minerals are required to get the mining plan approved, before actual mining can take place. The mining plan *inter-alia* includes assessment of impact of mining activity on forest, land surface and environment including air and water pollution, details of scheme of restoration of the area by afforestation, land reclamation, use of pollution control devices and such other measures as may be directed by the Central Government or the State Government from time to time.

In addition to above, mining lease holders are required to obtain appropriate clearances from Ministry of Environment and Forests. To ensure safety of mines, the Ministry of Labour administer the Mines Act, 1952. A separate Directorate in the form of Directorate General of Mines Safety has been set up under the Ministry of Labour. The Directorate ensures nationally acceptable and internationally comparable standards of occupational health, safety and welfare for employees in the Indian mines.